

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 remain in the application.

Claims 1-10, 13-15 and 19-21 are allowed.

Claims 11, 12 and 16-18 stand as rejected.

A replacement sheet of drawings on which Figure 3 appears is submitted, with reference characters 56, 58 corrected or added to obviate the objection to the drawings.

An Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith. U.S. Patent No. 6,915,993, issued on July 12, 2005 is listed, but is not considered to be prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) since the parent application, PCT/EP03/06609, published as PCT WO 2004/005066 A1, was not published in the English language, as required.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 11, 12 and 16-18 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Taubmann et al., DE 19815283 is respectfully requested. The Taubmann et al. patent shows the prior practice of affixing brackets 6a, 6b to each end by means of pairs of nuts 6c, 6d.

It is respectfully urged that such brackets do not comprise an integrally formed flattened end of the spindle. Claims 11 and 16 have been amended to recite a one piece spindle with a flattened end.

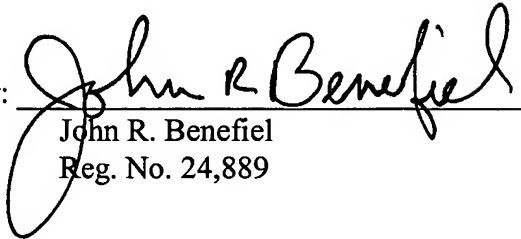
Accordingly, claims 11 and 16, and claims 12, 17, and 18 are believed to be patentable over that reference.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully considered.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 13, 2005

By:

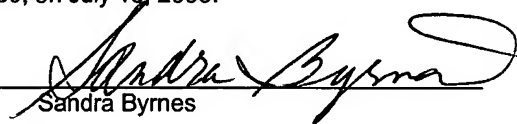

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By:


Sandra Byrnes